



Department of Justice

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Western District of Kentucky**

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BARBER SHOP OWNER SENTENCED TO 5 YEARS FOR HIS ROLE IN DRUG TRAFFICKING RING

LOUISVILLE, KY - Ford Jerome Shanklin, age 34, of 1721 O'Shea Street, Bowling Green, Kentucky, in Warren County, was sentenced to five years imprisonment in United States District Court, Louisville, Kentucky, U.S. Attorney David L. Huber of the Western District of Kentucky and Paul Vido, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Louisville Field Division, jointly announced today. He was sentenced for his role in a drug conspiracy involving the manufacture and distribution of crack cocaine, distribution of powder cocaine, and distribution of marijuana as well as the actual distribution of crack cocaine and powder cocaine at the Fadz 4 Dayz Barber Shop. Thomas B. Russell, Judge, United States District Court, also sentenced Shanklin to 5 years supervised release following incarceration. There is no parole in the federal judicial system.

Shanklin had previously pled guilty to 21 drug related offenses, including conspiracy and distribution of crack cocaine, powder cocaine, and marijuana. The guilty plea stemmed from a year-long investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), the Bowling Green/Warren County Drug Task Force, the Kentucky State Police, the Warren County Sheriff's Office, the Western Kentucky University Police Department and the Bowling Green Police Department. The investigation centered around drug trafficking activity in and around the

Fadz 4 Dayz Barber Shop located at 2319 Russellville Road, Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Shanklin was the owner of the barber shop.

According to an affidavit filed in the case, law enforcement received information from several sources that large quantities of drugs were being distributed from Fadz 4 Dayz. Law enforcement began physical surveillance of the Fadz 4 Dayz in the Spring of 2005. They observed drug trafficking activity. Beginning in June 2005, numerous purchases of cocaine and crack cocaine were made inside the Fadz 4 Dayz shop. Electronic surveillance established outside the Fadz 4 Dayz shop was able to capture other drug transactions occurring at the shop. In January 2006, a court-authorized audio and video interception device was installed inside Fadz 4 Dayz which captured drug transactions occurring inside the barber shop.

Shanklin previously admitted that between June 1, 2003 and February 17, 2006, he conspired with others to manufacture over 50 grams of crack cocaine, to distribute over 50 grams of crack cocaine, to distribute over 5 kilograms of cocaine, and to distribute marijuana in and around Bowling Green, Kentucky. Specifically, Shanklin stated that he began acquiring cocaine and crack cocaine from Richard Cox after Cox began working at the barber shop. Shanklin acquired cocaine and crack cocaine from Cox in order to sell it. Shanklin also acknowledged that he acquired large quantities of cocaine (1/2 kilogram) on at least three occasions directly from Cox's drug supplier, Corey Ferguson. Shanklin admitted to distributing this cocaine to drug dealers living in and around Hopkinsville, Kentucky. He also acknowledged that he routinely obtained marijuana from another co-conspirator for the purpose of distributing in and around Bowling Green. Throughout the course of the conspiracy, Shanklin was involved in drug transactions with an estimated street value of \$50,000.00.

Ten individuals were indicted in May 2006. Corey Ferguson was found guilty June 12, 2007, by a federal jury in United States District Court, Bowling Green, Kentucky, of conspiracy and aiding and abetting the distribution of 500 grams or more of cocaine. Co-defendants Richard Cox, Collin Carpenter, William Downy, Trevor Hampton, and Derrick Lander have all pled guilty and are awaiting sentencing. Co-defendants Damon Nelson, Albert Ferguson, and Benita Ferguson have advised the court, through counsel, of their intention to enter into pleas of guilty on various charges.

Assistant United States Attorney Jo E. Lawless prosecuted the case. The Bowling Green Field Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives conducted this investigation in partnership with the Warren County / Bowling Green Drug Task Force, as part of their mandated mission to reduce violent crime and other threats to public safety.

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